

armies, and ere long, will no doubt be introduced into Austria, France and England. It will extend itself with electrical effort over the world; is the opposite of vaccination, entirely neutralizing another pestilence. It is noticed by physicians as a singular fact, that small pox precedes and succeeds the Asiatic cholera. The Russian minister, Bodisco, introduced it to the notice of the Emperor of Russia, a year prior to his demise. As a successful experiment, it is showing itself in practical illustrations of illustrative power, in isolated instances over this country, and will no doubt hereafter become a fixed fact. This simple process will when introduced, be the means of saving large sums to the European governments, together with the lives of their soldiers. The discoverer received a reward, was noticed by the European princes, and diplomas from each of the universities, together with jewels taken from the crown of each monarch. The prizes through all Europe, offered since 1819, for an "absolute and reliable preventive" of this pestilence, and that have been accumulating since 1816, amount to the sum of £148,000. The first prizes are to be awarded by Napoleon III., subject to the decision of the Royal Academy at Paris.

THE AMERICAN MISSIONARY BOARD.

The readers of the Star, undoubtedly, hailed with joy the announcement that the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions have at length taken action on the great subject of slavery. We refer to it now just to show that the position recently taken by the Board meets with the most cordial approval of the ministers, churches, and religious presses at the north. The position taken by the Board will be recollected to be this: The decree of the Choctaw nation was to the effect, that "no slave nor the children of slaves, shall be taught to read or write in or at any school or Academy in the nation, by any person whomsoever," and "it shall be the duty of the General Superintendent or Trustees of Schools, promptly to remove any and all persons who are known to be abolitionists, who disseminate, directly or indirectly, abolition doctrines." When the Choctaws endeavoured to carry out such decrees, aiming directly against the missionaries and their assistants of the American Board, who are the chief teachers in all these Indian schools, it seems that the missionaries themselves and the Prudential Committee of the Society have concluded not to yield to these new demands of the slaveholding Indians, and that if they cannot be allowed to teach the children of slaves to read and write in these mission schools, they will yield their places as teachers. Here is where the matter seemed to stand, and to await the action of the Board which met, a few weeks since, in Connecticut. The action has now been had, and it is the first out-spoken Anti-slavery action which the American Board has taken. It is here this great Society has been compelled to take its present position, by the wretched proslavery enactment of the Choctaw Indians, so like the law of the Southern States generally, against teaching the slaves or their children, to read or write; yet, if compelled, we are glad to see it taken. It is a good stand—let it be firmly sustained, as indeed it will. With a very large majority the Board has adopted three resolutions, the main points to which are that it approves of the decision of the missionaries and committee "not to conduct the boarding schools in the Choctaw nation in conformity to the principles prescribed by the legislation of the Choctaw Council"—and "that while our missionaries among the Choctaws are allowed in fact to preach the gospel to all persons of whatever complexion and condition, and to preach it in all its applications to human character and duty, they are to continue patiently in their work"—whence those Indian Slaveholding Christians and politicians, will understand that those missionaries must be allowed to teach the gospel and give education to all, or the Board will recall them.

This action of the American Board is warmly greeted at the north. Warm commendations come up on all sides. The Independent says, "The decision of the Board on the Choctaw mission is received with almost universal satisfaction. No document so well covers the whole ground of slavery in its relation to missions and churches. Now that the resolutions are passed by a strong majority, there will be no party in the Board to oppose their faithful execution; there will not only be acquiescence but co-operation in this great measure." The 'Christian Secretary' is quoted to say: "The action was right, and will save the Board in future from difficulties from this source. It met the question fair in the face, and decided it as a body of Christians should." The Hartford "Religious Herald" says, "The great debate on slavery was conducted in an admirable temper, though with keen excitement and deep anxiety, and resulted in an overwhelming triumph for the progressive party." The Boston 'Congregationalist' says: "It is a crisis in the history of the Board. It will not divide them. It will draw them closer together." And other papers, religious and secular, speak in commendation of the action of this very large missionary body.

We are glad that the American Board has taken this ground, both for the sake of the purity of its mission among the Choctaws, and for its influence on the anti-slavery question. It is progress in the right direction; and of one of the most powerful religious associations in America. There is no other missionary association in the United States so large, nor so wealthy, nor embracing so many learned and influential ministers of the gospel, as well as laymen of great influence. At the late meeting of the Board, among the corporate members present we count 48 D. Ds., if that be anything, and lots of Hons. and LL. Ds. These, then, are the men, with hosts of other worthy ministers not yet doctorated, who in the action of this Board, conservative and non-committal if some of them have before been, have now voted and spoken out for freedom and for the slave. This action will not die away without an echo, and be lost. It finds a ready response in many churches and hearts all over the land. It touches a chord which will vibrate long and far.

Many eyes have for the few past years been looking toward the American Board for some action which should in some way speak out against the crying evil of American slavery; many a heart which has beat warmly for the missionary interests of this Society has felt deeply anxious that it might lift up its great voice against the great crime of the American church and the American government; and such eyes rejoice and such hearts are glad, that in the present Annual Meeting, something has been said—been voted—been done. We will thank God, and take courage.—P. S. B.

THE NATIONAL MAGAZINE.

This monthly still continues to sustain its well earned reputation, of possessing a truly elevated literary character, built up and maintained on sound healthy moral and religious principles; rendering its companionship so safe and profitable to young and old as to bespeak for it a cordial welcome in every Christian family, that may be induced to order its monthly visits. These, it is satisfactory to add, can still be secured at an expense to the visited, of two dollars per annum.

SHALL WE HAVE A PROHIBITORY LIQUOR LAW?

BY WILLIAM SMITH, AUTHOR OF ALAGON AND OTHER POEMS.

A PRIZE ESSAY OF EIGHT PAGES.

"Drunkness is a sin", are the first words of this essay. Mr. Smith adds to the statement a few others,